

Historic, archived document

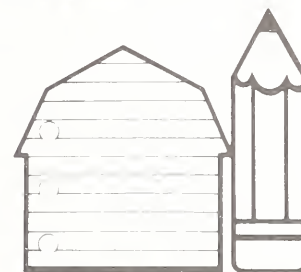
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Ag in the Classroom

aS533.A35

Notes

United States
Department of
Agriculture



A bi-monthly newsletter for the Agriculture in the Classroom Program. Sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to help students understand the important role of agriculture in the United States economy. For information, contact: Shirley Traxler, Director, Room 317-A, Administration Bldg., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-2200. 202/447-5727

JUNE/JULY 1991

Vol. 7, No. 4

Ohio: Improving Science and Agricultural Education

"By the year 2000, U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement."
—National Education Goals

When the President and the nation's governors announced the National Education Goals, they stressed the need to help teachers learn new and innovative ways of teaching science. One such innovative approach is Project SYMBIOSIS, sponsored by the Ohio State University, designed to improve science instruction in high school agriculture and science courses.

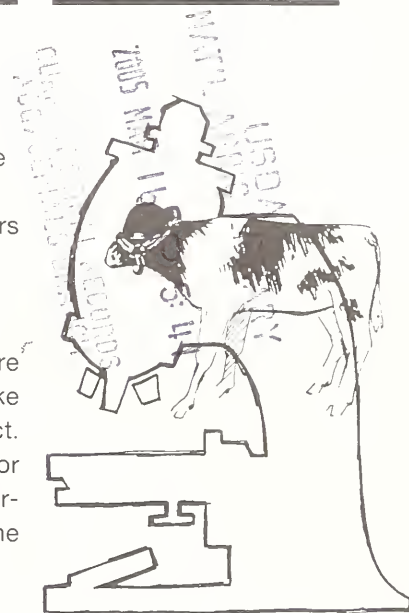
Project SYMBIOSIS is designed to help agriculture and science teachers integrate science

principles into agricultural curricula—and integrate knowledge about agriculture into the science curriculum. "We're looking at ways to help teachers teach differently," says Dr. Rosemarie Rossetti of the Department of Agricultural Education at Ohio State.

Fifteen teacher teams, consisting of an agriculture and a science teacher from the same school, will take part in the year-long curriculum development project. Throughout the year, they will travel to Ohio State for five day-long workshops introducing the latest information in agricultural science technology and the application of science principles to agriculture.

In preparing for the workshops, program

continued on page 2.....



Montana Videos: Lights! Camera! Action!

In Montana, "MTV" may take on a new meaning now that Montana's AITC program is developing and distributing a series of videos about agriculture for use in the classroom. The series, called "Montana Country," is a joint effort of Agriculture in Montana Schools and Montana State University's Extension Service and Office of Instructional Development.

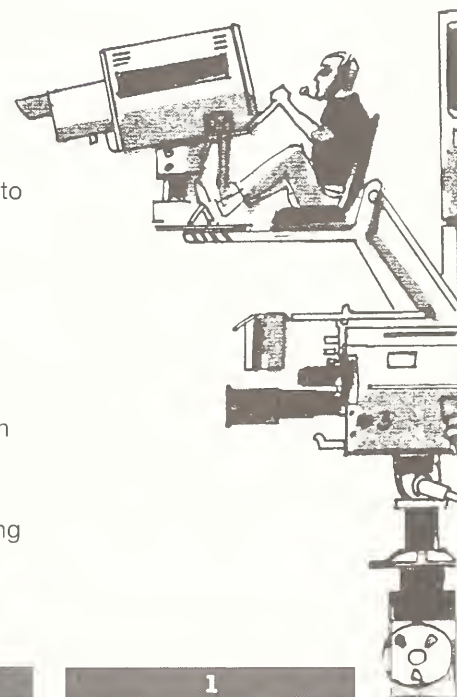
The latest video, "Wheat, Barley and Hay," teaches students in grades 4-6 about farming, from tilling the soil to harvesting the crop to fretting over profit margins. Along the way, viewers get to see farm machinery in action, hear farmers tell what they do and why they do it, see how a loaf of bread gets from the wheat field to the grocery store shelf,

and learn new words such as "windrow" and "swather."

"With children and teachers today concerned about the environment, food safety, and animal care, it is vitally important that they have access to exciting, factual classroom materials about the food and fiber system," says Betty Jo Malone, state contact for AITC in Montana.

The videos are distributed to the state's 600 schools as well as county extension agents and school superintendents. An accompanying teacher's package includes suggested classroom activities. Other titles in the series include "Montana Country: Land of Plenty" and "Montana Country: Cattle, Sheep & Hogs." Programs dealing

continued on page 2.....



From the Director

In this issue of Notes you will see pictures taken at the 1991 Ag in the Classroom National Conference. At this tenth anniversary conference, we were honored by a visit from Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan. Also, it was a pleasure to welcome Peter Fawcett of the Canadian Embassy who honored us by bringing greetings from Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Prime Minister Mulroney's letter and

one from Canadian Minister of Agriculture Bill Mc Knight are reprinted on page 4.

Yours Truly,



Shirley Traxler

continued from page 1.....

Ohio: Improving Science and Agricultural Education

planners have collected extensive information on everything from the textbooks the teachers currently use to the lab and classroom facilities available in their schools. "It's no use showing teachers experiments that they cannot replicate with their students," Rossetti says.

But the real key to success will come when the teachers are back in their schools. "We want these teachers to learn to work together in developing curriculum," Rossetti says. "We've asked their schools to make sure the teams share a planning period. We've also asked the teachers to drive in the same car when they come to Columbus."

The project comes at a time when Ohio's agriculture curriculum is undergoing dramatic changes.

Beginning next year, all ninth grade vocational agriculture students will study agriscience instead of production agriculture. "The agriculture teachers have a strong incentive to look at new approaches for teaching this new curriculum," Rossetti says. "We will ask the teacher teams to develop activities, demonstrations, and experiments that can be disseminated to other teachers around the state. In this way, we hope the project will improve science and agriculture instruction in classrooms all across Ohio."

The project is funded for the first year by the Ohio State University and the Kellogg Foundation. The U.S. Department of Education has agreed to support the program in its second year.

continued from page 1.....

Montana Videos: Lights! Camera! Action!

New Video on Agricultural Aviation

A new documentary about the benefits of aerial application to production agriculture is now available from Women of the National Agricultural Aviation Association. The 30-minute video, "The Aerial Applicators' Growing Role," tells the story of a small but highly productive industry of agricultural aviation. The tape is available for \$10 from

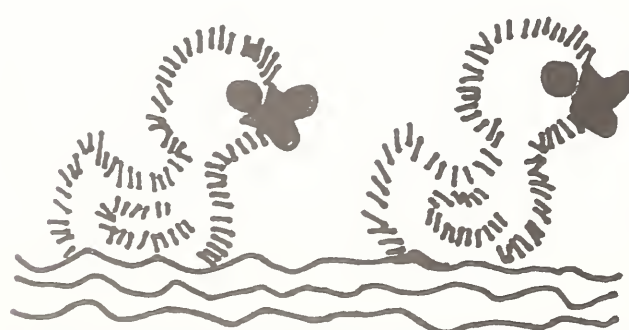
NAAA
Videotape Department A
1005 E Street SE
Washington, DC 20003.

with natural resources and specialty crops are under development for release throughout 1991 and 1992.

The AMS bumper sticker contest continues to generate interest in agriculture among teachers and students. "The 16,000 stickers can be seen across the state ... and across the nation," Malone says. This year, the Florida Department of Agriculture is using kindergartner Sterling Williams' design as a mailing

logo. Farmer's Union Oil Company has adapted sixth grader Heidi Hansen's bumper sticker for the company's postage meter.

Although AMS is an all-volunteer organization, it continues to tackle new projects. The latest, the Teachers' Resource Library, is a collection of special visual aid. Videos, movies, slides, and additional agricultural teaching aids will be available to Montana educators.



1991, AG IN MONTANA SCHOOLS

GRADE 5

MIRANDA GROVES, Polson

Farming is something to quack about!!

Spotlight

Kansas Students Learn That Without Conservation, Their Soil Will Be "Gone With The Wind"

The scene: a run-down farm in rural Kansas. The problem: villain Nasty Ned the North Wind and the other dangerous criminals in the Erosion Gang are stealing farmer Darrell's land right out from under him. But Ned doesn't plan to stop with Darrell's land. "Today Kansas, tomorrow the world!" he boasts. Luckily, our hero, Courageous Kurt the soil conservation agent, arrives to save the day.

That's the basic plot of the Kansas Ag in the Classroom version of *Gone With the Wind*. The play was written by Shirley Steiger, third grade teacher at Salt Creek Valley School in Leavenworth County, Kansas, during the 1989 Integrating Ag summer course sponsored by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

Steiger says the play reflects some of her own family background. "I grew up on a farm. My father loved the land and practiced soil conservation techniques. I wanted to make others in the community more aware of the importance of soil conservation."



Gone With the Wind is written in melodrama style. "Audience participation is very important," Steiger says. When Nasty Ned and the other villains, who include Elvira Erosion, Wily Water, Randy Rain, and Sam Snow, walk onstage, the audience is encouraged to boo. Cheers are, of course, appropriate for Courageous Kurt and the other heroes — Amber Plains, Terry Terrace, Wendy Break, Rocky Stone, Norman Notill, and Wanda Waterway.

Students learn valuable information about soil conservation. For example, Amber Plains tells the farmers, "Erosion occurs when rain falls on unprotected slopes, so the very best method to prevent run-off erosion is to plant grasses on all areas that are not being farmed."

At the same time, the play teaches that everyone must be responsible for conserving our land. "Once soil is lost," Kurt says, "there's no replacing it."

Gary Rader, Leavenworth County conservation agent, attended a performance of *Gone With the Wind*. He believes the play also has an important message for adults. "Too many farmers still farm as their grandfathers did. After seeing the play, the children can teach adults some important lessons about conservation."

Photos:

1. Shirley Steiger with third grade students from Salt Creek Valley School.
2. Shirley Steiger receiving Conservation Achievement Award



Ag in the Classroom

Minister of Agriculture
Ministre de l'Agriculture
June 1991

It is with great pleasure that I join with so many others in offering congratulations to you on the occasion of USDA Agriculture in the Classroom's Tenth Annual Conference. I salute members from the Canadian and American organizations for their outstanding work in promoting an increased awareness of the social and economic importance of agriculture.

As Canada's new Minister of Agriculture, I look forward to working with the many agriculture organizations on both sides of the border that contribute so invaluable to our shared goal of strengthening the agri-food industry.

I would particularly like to thank the USDA AITC for its openness and enthusiasm in greeting the Canadian interest in establishing a similar organization. The beginnings of a Canadian counterpart to your program began to take root eight years ago when representatives of the Middlesex County Women in Support of Agriculture attended the USDA AITC conference in Washington, D.C.

Your ongoing willingness to share ideas and resources has greatly helped to energize the Canadian effort. Canadian delegates have been inspired and motivated to expand local and provincial programs by the assistance the USDA AITC provided. The combination of Canadian ambition and American experience has rekindled a keen desire in both countries to educate young people about agriculture's importance.

Again, I offer my thanks for the assistance you have always so graciously extended to the Canadian AITC program and wish both organizations continued success.

Bill McKnight
Bill McKnight

Ottawa Canada K1A 0G5



1.

PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am delighted to convey my warmest greetings and best wishes to everyone attending the 10th Annual Agriculture in the Classroom Program conference in Washington.

The increased Canadian participation in AITC programs each year is a testament to the importance of education in fostering awareness of agricultural initiatives in schools, business and the media. The ongoing support of our American colleagues, through the sharing of ideas and resources, has assisted the growth and expansion of local and provincial programs across Canada. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and is indeed deserving of recognition.

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you for a productive and enjoyable conference, and success in meeting the challenges ahead.

Brian Mulroney

OTTAWA
1991



Photos:

1. The Color Guard from Fort McNair

2. Certificates of Appreciation from Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan for: Dave Phillips, Department of Education; Jean Ibendahl, American Agri-Women; Marsha Purcell, American Farm Bureau Federation; and Barbara Selover, National Live Stock and Meat Board; presented by Dr. Charles Hess, Assistant Secretary for Science and Education, USDA (center)

3. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Madigan with Tresa Matthews, Office of Finance and Management, USDA

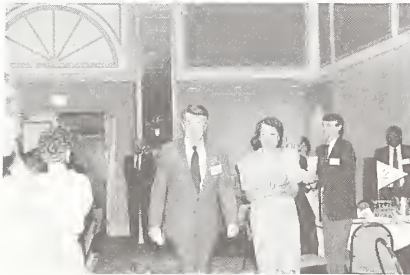
4. Mary Witten Neal, Department of Education, describing "America 2000" the President's education initiative

5. Taking a break in front of New York's exhibit

Room Tenth Anniversary Conference



2.



3.

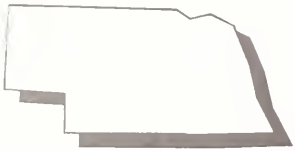


4.



5.

Nebraska Students Learn About A'Maize'ing Corn



To celebrate National Agriculture Week, Nebraska's AITC program sent teachers a kit of learning materials on one of Nebraska's most important crops. Called "Our A'maize'ing Corn," the teaching package incorporated lessons in language arts, social studies, and science. The materials were developed with the support of the Nebraska Corn Board.

Ellen Hellerich, state contact, says Nebraska AITC tries to send new materials to teachers every spring. "We need to keep new materials in front of teachers," she says. "We also need to help them begin to focus special attention on Ag Week."

As in the past, the materials were sent to all teachers who have ever taken part in a summer workshop. For the first time this year, all elementary schools in Lincoln, the state's second largest city, also received a copy. "We were excited by the response of teachers who had never taken part in our AITC summer workshop," Hellerich said. "They told us the materials made them more aware of Ag Week — and got them started thinking about ways to incorporate more information about agriculture into their lessons during the rest of the year."

Nebraska has no mandated curriculum at the state level. Teachers who developed the materials reviewed local district curricula in social studies and science, then designed activities to teach common objectives.

The package included materials for creating a brightly colored bulletin board. Teachers also learned how to order two videos that they could incorporate into their lessons.

Even the envelope that held the materials emphasized an important contribution that corn makes to our nation. The bright yellow plastic envelope contained cornstarch, which facilitates the degradation process.

A Science Activity on Why Seeds Need Room to Grow

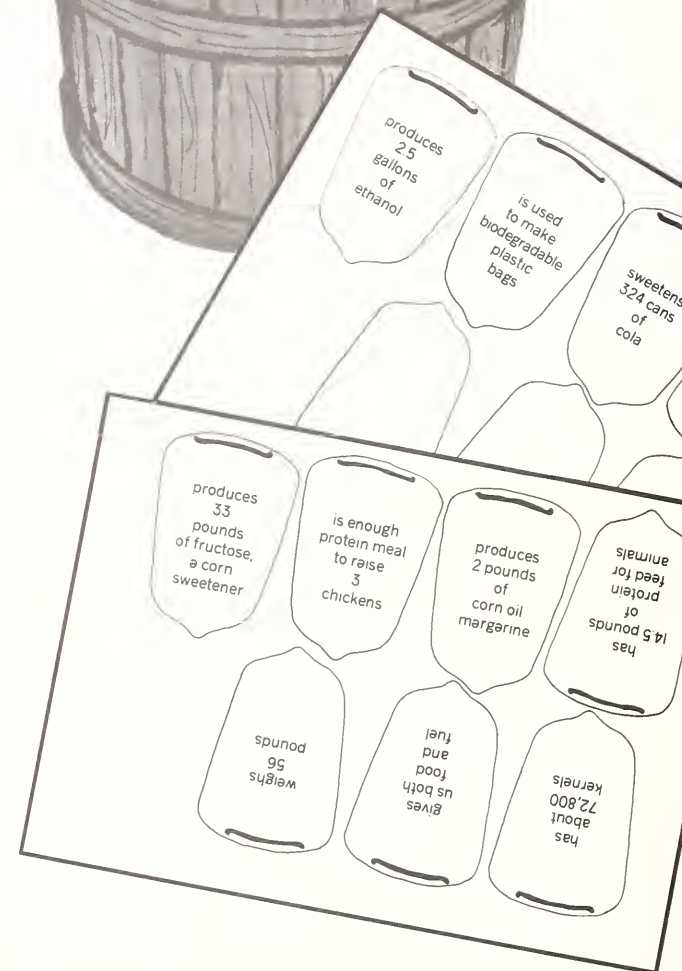
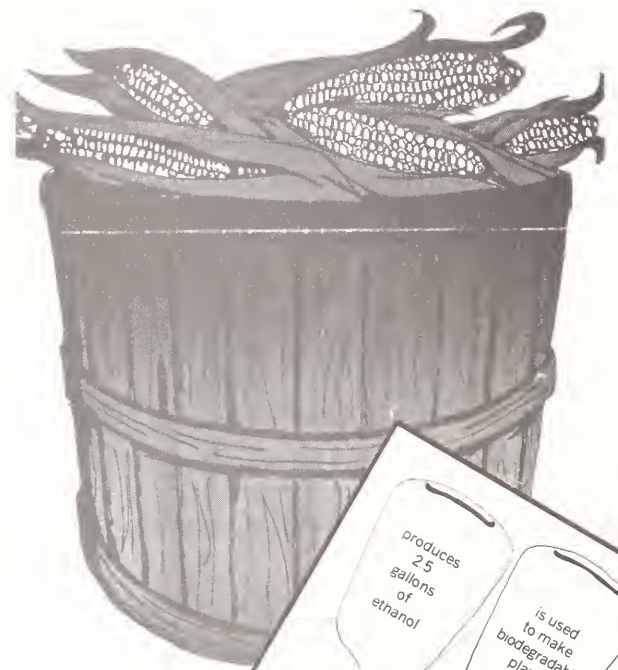
This science activity, for example, helped students learn why corn seeds need room to grow:

1. Tape off an 8' x 8' area of the classroom floor.
2. Ask four students to sit inside the taped off area. Encourage them to pay attention to the literature book for five minutes. STOP. Add four more students to the ones already seated on the floor. Continue reading for another five minutes. STOP. Ask the rest of the class to sit in the marked off area. Read for another five minutes.
3. Ask the original four students to describe how they felt as they were listening to the story. When did they feel crowded? Is that the way they like to listen to a story?

4. Ask the total group:

How would you like to live being this crowded? Would it be easy to concentrate at school? How would your arms and legs feel if you were always this confined? How would you feel if you couldn't stretch, move, or run?

One Bushel of Corn...



Live--By Satellite--It's Alabama's AITC

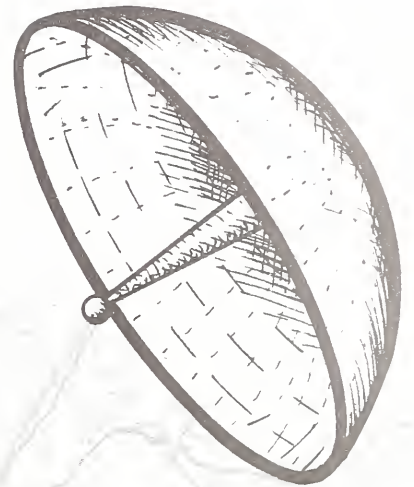
Using the latest in communications technology to promote the latest in learning technology, Alabama's AITC program sponsored a statewide satellite teleconference on May 15. The conference introduced history and vocational agriculture teachers, library media specialists, and 4-H and FFA leaders to Alabama AgriBase, a new computerized database program.

Dr. Bill Bailey, Auburn professor who helped design the AgriBase program and participated in the teleconference, said the new software can "be a tool to encourage students to develop contemporary skills and methods for raising questions and solving problems about their state and its agricultural resources." The workshop was designed to give participants some "hands-on" experience in working with the database, as well as demonstrating examples of its use in Alabama classrooms.

"The workshop was designed so teachers could be sitting at their computers with the software loaded and ready to go," explained Jane Alice Lee, state contact for AITC in Alabama. Flyers announcing the conference were sent to schools across the state. As teachers registered, they received a floppy disk containing the AgriBase program, instructions on loading it into the Apple II computer, information on how to receive the teleconference transmission, and a packet of material illustrating ways the database could be integrated into a variety of subjects for students in grades 4 through 9.

Throughout the telecast, participants also had an opportunity to contact presenters by telephone. This "distance learning" technology is already used in some states to provide students in small districts with specialized courses that might not otherwise be available to them.

Dr. Bob Summerville, the state's social studies coordinator, developed the AgriBase program and demonstrated it during the teleconference. He sees AgriBase as an important step in helping students use computers to learn higher-order thinking skills. AgriBase, he says, "will put computers in the social studies classroom and take us beyond the simple drill and practice types of instruction that so many of our classroom computers are being used for."



The individuals listed here are key reference persons in each state. If you have any questions, want to make reports, or need more information about your state's Ag in the Classroom program, contact the following:

Alabama

Ms. Jane Alice Lee
2101 Bell Road
Montgomery, AL 36117
205-272-2611

Ms. Brenda Summerlin
Dept of Ag & Industries
PO Box 3336
Montgomery, AL 36193
205-261-5872

Alaska

Mr. Ted Berry
Mat-Su College
University of Alaska
PO Box 2889
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-9752

Arizona

Ms. Sue Cafferty
4341 E Broadway
Phoenix, AZ 85040
602-255-4456

Mr. Robert Wilson
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
3401 E Elwood
Phoenix, AZ 85040
612-470-0088

Arkansas

Dr. Philip Besonen
GE 310
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701
501-575-4270

California

Mr. Mark Linder
CA Foundation for AITC
1601 Exposition Blvd FB 13
Sacramento, CA 95815
916-924-4380

Colorado

Ms. Helen Davis
Colorado Dept of Agriculture
700 Kipling St. #4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-5894
303-239-4114

Ms. Bette Blinde
28276 WCR 15
Denver, CO 80550
303-686-7806

Connecticut

Mr. David Nisely
Dept of Agriculture
165 Capitol Ave
Room 234
Hartford, CT 06106
203-566-3671

Dr. Alfred Mannebach
University of Connecticut
249 Glenbrook Rd
Storrs, CT 06269-2093
203-486-0246

Delaware

Mr. Sherman Stevenson
Delaware Farm Bureau
233 S Dupont Highway
Camden-Wyoming, DE 19934
302-697-3183

Florida

Mr. John McNeely
FL Dept of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
LL-29 The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32301
904-488-9780

Georgia

Ms. Donna Reynolds
Georgia Farm Bureau
PO Box 7068
Macon, GA 31298
912-474-8411

Hawaii

Mr. Ken Kajihara
Dept of Education
49 Funchai St, J-306
Honolulu, HI 96813-1549
808-373-3477

Idaho

Ms. Kathie Johnson
Idaho Dept of Agriculture
PO Box U
Twin Falls, ID 83303
208-736-2188

Illinois

Ms. Ellen Culver
Illinois Farm Bureau
Field Services Division
1701 Towanda Ave
Bloomington, IL 61702-2901
309-557-2219

Indiana

Mr. Robert Book
IN Institute of Agric.
Food, & Nutrition
101 W Washington St #1320E
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317-637-1600

Iowa

Ms. Dyanette Mosher
IA Department of Agriculture
Wallace Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
515-281-5952

Kansas

Ms. Sharon Tally
124 Bluemont Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506
913-532-7946

Ms. Mardelle Pringle
Rt 1
Yates Center, KS 66783
316-537-7833

Kentucky

Ms. Faye Lowe
Kentucky Farm Bureau
9201 Bunsen Pkwy
Louisville, KY 40250-0700
502-495-5000

Louisiana

Ms. Barbara Langley
LA Farm Bureau Federation
PO Box 95004
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004
504-922-6200

Maine

Mr. Cliff Shaffer
Maine Dept of Education
Station 23
Augusta, ME 04333
207-289-5800

Maryland

Ms. Laurie Green
Department of Agriculture
50 Harry S Truman Pkwy
Annapolis, MD 21401
301-841-5894

Massachusetts

Mr. Wayne Hipsley
211 Stockbridge Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
413-545-2646

Michigan

Dr. Eddie Moore
410 Agriculture Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-355-6580

Ms. Julie Chamberlain
Michigan Farm Bureau
7373 W Saginaw Hwy
Lansing, MI 48909
517-323-7000

Minnesota

Mr. Alan Withers
MN Department of Agriculture
90 W Plato Blvd
St Paul, MN 55107
612-296-6688

Mississippi

Ms. Helen Jenkins
MS Farm Bureau
PO Box 1972
Jackson, MS 39205-1972
(Street: 6310 I-55 N
Jackson, MS 39211)
601-957-3200

Missouri

Ms. Diane Olson
Missouri Farm Bureau
PO Box 658
Jefferson City, MO 65102
314-893-1400

Montana

Ms. Betty Jo Malone
4538 Palisades Park
Billings, MT 59106-1341
406-652-6161

Nebraska

Ms. Ellen Hellench
NE Farm Bureau Federation
PO Box 80299
Lincoln, NE 68501
402-421-4400 ext 2002

Nevada

Mr. Ben Damonte
12945 Old Virginia Rd
Reno, NV 89511
702-853-5696

New Hampshire

Ms. Donna Grusell
NH Farm Bureau Federation
295 Sheep Davis Rd
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-1934

New Jersey

Ms. Cindy Effron
NJ Dept of Agriculture
CN 330
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-8897 or 633-7463

New Mexico

Mr. E.G. Blanton
NM Farm & Livestock Bureau
421 N Water
Las Cruces, NM 88001
505-526-5521

New York

Ms. Betty Wolanyk
111 Kennedy Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853-5901
607-255-8122

North Carolina

Ms. Janice Shepard
NC Farm Bureau
PO Box 27766
Raleigh, NC 27611
919-782-1705

North Dakota

ND Dept of Agriculture
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505
701-224-2231

Ohio

Ms. Judy Roush
910 Ohio Departments Bldg
65 S Front St
Columbus, OH 43266-0308
614-466-3076

Oklahoma

Ms. JoDahl Theimer
OK Department of Agriculture
2800 N Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-521-3868

Dr. Paul Czarniecki
4-H Youth Development
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078
405-744-5392

Oregon

Ms. Kay Shidler
Agr-Business Council
1200 NW Front Ave., Suite 290
Portland, OR 97209-2800
503-627-0860

Pennsylvania

Ms. Beth Moore
5399 Guitner Rd.
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-375-2639

Rhode Island

Ms. Carol Stamp
1 Stamp Place
South County Trail
Exeter, RI 02822
401-942-4742

South Carolina

Ms. Beth Phibbs
SC Dept of Education
917 Rutledge Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29201
803-734-8842

South Dakota

Ms. Gail Brock
SD Farm Bureau
PO Box 1426
Huron, SD 57350
605-352-6731

Ms. Roberta Anson
Executive Director, AITC
PO Box 577
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-0361

Tennessee

Mr. Bobby Beets
Tennessee Farm Bureau
Box 313
Columbia, TN 38402-0313
615-388-7872

Texas

Mr. Tad Duncan
Texas Farm Bureau
PO Box 2689
Waco, TX 76702-2689
817-772-3030

Utah

Mr. El Shaffer
UT Department of Agriculture
350 N Redwood Rd
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
801-538-7104

Vermont

Dr. Gerald Fuller
University of Vermont
Agric. Engineering Bldg
Burlington, VT 05405-0004
802-656-2001

Ms. Megan Camp
Shelburne Farms
Shelburne, VT 05482
802-985-8686

Virginia

Ms. Jane Futch
VA Farm Bureau Federation
PO Box 27552
Richmond, VA 23261
804-225-7544

Washington

Ms. Julie Sandberg
WA Dept of Agriculture
406 General Admin. Bldg.
AX-41
Olympia, WA 98504
206-586-1427

West Virginia

Mr. William Alken
WV Farm Bureau
Rt 3, Box 156-A
Buckhannon, WV 26201
304-472-2080

Wisconsin

Mr. Dennis Sabel
Wisconsin Farm Bureau
7210 Mineral Point Rd
Madison, WI 53705
608-833-8070

Wyoming

Mr. Gene Pexton
833 Braae Rd
Douglas, WY 82633
307-358-5828

Ms. Sue Sherman
Executive Director WAITC
WY Dept of Agriculture
2219 Carey Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-638-7355

Micronesia

Dr. Ruben Dayrit
CTAS/College of Micronesia
Kolonia, Ponape
FSM 96941
691-320-2738

Guam

Mr. Victor Artero
College of Ag & Life Sciences
University of Guam
Mangialo, Guam 96923
617-734-2575

Virgin Islands

Mr. Eric Bough
Dept. of Economic Development
& Agriculture
St Croix, VI 00850
809-778-0991

Mr. Otis Hicks
PO Box 804
Christianstad
St. Croix, VI 00821-0804
809-773-0758

Puerto Rico

Mr. Dave Heilig
USDA/SCS
Caribbean Area State Office
GPO Box 4868
San Juan, PR 00936
809-498-5206

Ag in the Classroom Notes

Room 317-A, Administration Bldg.
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250-2200

BALTIMORE, MD
DROP SHIPMENT
AUTHORIZATION 26
PRESORTED FIRST-CLASS



1685 22036/20705XRUGF 1 0001
P KRUG
USDA NAL BLDG #111
10301 BALTIMORE BLVD
BELTSVILLE
MD 20705-2351

To stop mailing or to change
your address send mailing
label to above address